



Orange Township Public Schools
Orange Preparatory Academy
of Inquiry & Innovation
Carrie Halstead, Principal



Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Dixon, Assistant Principal
Samantha Fossella, Assistant Principal

August 17, 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2023-2024 school year here at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation! We are partners, jointly dedicated to helping your child grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

Please be reminded that students report for the first day of school on Thursday, September 7, 2023. This school year will be filled with continued opportunities to stretch your child's practice. It is going to be a great school year for not only the school level staff but for each of you as well.

MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS:

- All 8th Grade Students will enter through the doors on the left side of the building (auditorium lobby entrance).
- All students are required to wear the district approved uniform as outlined below under the "Student Attire" section of this letter.
- Breakfast will begin each day at 7:30 am. (No student will be allowed in the building prior to 7:30 am each day).
- Students must arrive to school by no later than 8:20 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 8:25 am each day. Attendance is vital to instructional supports for our students. We need our students on time and present each day.

DISMISSAL:

- All students are dismissed at 2:50 p.m.
- Students will be asked to leave the premises and the surrounding area of the school immediate to make their way home. At no time will students be permitted to hang out on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Central Avenue.

STUDENT ATTIRE:

Students should dress appropriately for a school setting. Sneakers must always be worn for physical education classes. Uniforms should be worn daily. Orange Preparatory Academy Uniform Policy is as follows:

- Gray or Burgundy Polo shirt. All shirts must have a collar.
- Black Pants and/or knee-length Skirts, Slacks, Skorts. No jean or legging material will be allowed.
- Gray or Burgundy Sweater Vest or Cardigan may be worn.
- Students must change into their gym uniforms each day for gym. Gym uniforms are not permitted to be worn to school. Gym uniforms are Gray or Burgundy tee-shirt and shorts or sweatpants.
- Sneakers or closed in shoes. Crocs are not permitted.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS (ID's) AND SCHEDULES:

We will hold an ID and Schedule Kiosk on Monday, August 28 - Thursday, August 31, 2023, from 10 am to 2:00 pm. All students are encouraged to report to the school to retrieve their schedule and sit for their picture for their ID. Students will receive their ID on the 1st or 2nd day of school.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:

For information regarding classroom supplies, please visit www.orange.k12.nj.us and select Our District and then your child's school for a comprehensive review.

STUDENT ABSENCES:

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Ms. Cabrera, Administrative Assistant, at 973-677-4135 ext. 31701. The district policy indicates that a student must be in attendance for 163 or more school days in order to be considered to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade/course to which he/she is assigned.

FORMS:

Students will receive the emergency contact form on the first day of school. Please review and complete the emergency form and other corresponding forms by September 15, 2023. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 23-24.

CHROMEBOOKS:

Students are to bring their district issued Chromebook to school on a daily basis; fully charged. Students will receive their new devices at our Back to School Orientation and Rollout event scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2023 beginning at 10 am.

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS/PROGRAMS

All afterschool clubs and organizations as well as the extended day academic program will begin on September 14, 2023. The list of those clubs and organizations is below. The Saturday academic program will begin on September 16, 2023. Forms will be send home the first week of schools for students to register for the club/organization of their choice. In addition, parents can also enroll your child in our extended day program and/or Saturday program. Based on data collected from your child's performance in 7th grade as well as their results of this year's diagnostic assessment, students may be placed in these programs for extra support. Parents of these students will be notified in advance by letter from the principal.

| Clubs and Organizations | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Chorus | Model UN |
| Concert Band | Robotics |
| Cyber Café | Sewing |
| Dance | Student Council |
| Drama | Student Tech Team |
| Female Support | Tennis |
| Jr. Debate | Visual Media/News Show |
| Male Support | Extend Day (Tues./Wed./Thurs.) & Saturday Academic |

COMMUNICATION:

- All teachers and staff will be connected to our students and families using "Remind" and "Google Classroom". Please ensure you have connected with your child's classroom teacher on this platform and check the daily messages from all of your child's teachers.
- E-mail & phone blasts will also be used to communicate with families. Please ensure you have updated your contact information in genesis. It is imperative that all school personnel have the most update information for your household.

- Parent Portal will be the means of accessing all your student's important information, his/her progress/grades, missing assignments and other concerns that might impact your student's performance or well-being. If you have not done so, please ensure that you sign up for parent portal.
- Please listen to phone blasts sent by the school and/or District. They include important information and guidance.
- If you have not signed up for the Orange App, you can download it on your Android or Apple iPhone.
- The School District's social media platforms are a great source for posting updates & important information as well as celebrating and sharing photos of our fun activities. You can also follow our school on the following social media platform below:
 - **Twitter:** Orange Public School District and OrangePrep
 - **Instagram:** Orange Public School District and OrangePrepAcademy
 - **Facebook:** Orange Public School District and Orange Preparatory Academy

We are looking forward to a happy, healthy, and productive school year!

Educationally yours,

Carrie J. Halstead

Carrie J. Halstead,
Principal